

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICEGroup Art Unit \_\_\_\_  
Examiner \_\_\_\_

MASAHIRO ABUKAWA

Serial No.

PRELIMINARY  
AMENDMENT

Filed January 7, 2002

For: MORTAR GROUTING TYPE JOINT FOR  
REINFORCING BARS \_\_\_\_\_/

January 7, 2002

Box PCT  
Asst. Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application in the following manner:

IN THE CLAIMS

A<sup>1</sup> 3. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1, wherein each of the pair of thin-walled members constituting the supporting protrusion (5) has an angle ridge line (7) sloping on both sides with the portion supporting the reinforcing bar (12) constituting the apex.

Sub 4. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1, wherein the bolt hole (8) is situated between the supporting protrusion (5) and the opening cover (2).

5. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1, wherein the bolt hole (8) is situated in the portion of the cylindrical body side wall facing to the supporting protrusion (5).

Sub 6. (amended) A mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars according to claim 1, wherein:

the distance between the reinforcing bar supporting portions (6) of the pair of thin-walled members is smaller than the diameter of the reinforcing bar (12); and

the distance between the reinforcing bar supporting portion (6) and the cylindrical body central axis is substantially equal to the radius of the circular hole (3) of the opening cover (2).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV025142733US addressed to: Box PCT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 7, 2002. Name of person mailing: C. Gail Boes  
Signature: C. Gail Boes Date JAN. 7, 2002